UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE DIVISION DOCKET NO. 1:17-cv-223-MOC

CARLY J. LANCE,)	
Plaintiff,)	
Vs.)	ORDER
NANCY A. BERRYHILL, Acting Commissioner of Social Security,)	
Defendant.)	

THIS MATTER is before the Court on the parties' Stipulation for Payment of Attorney's Fees. The Court enters the following Order, pursuant to its authority to award fees to a prevailing party, other than the United States, incurred by that party in a civil action against the United States under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A). The Court notes that the government has consented to the fee requested by stipulation (#21). Having considered this motion, the Court enters the following Order.

ORDER

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the parties' Stipulation for Payment of Attorney's Fees (#21) is **GRANTED**. Upon stipulation of the parties, it is ordered that Plaintiff is hereby awarded attorney's fees in the amount of \$3,250.00, payable to plaintiff and sent to plaintiff's counsel, Christopher S. Stepp, 112 South Main Street, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28792, in full satisfaction of any and all attorney's fee claims plaintiff may have in this case under the EAJA.

Pursuant to the United States Supreme Court's ruling in <u>Astrue v. Ratliff</u>, 130 S. Ct. 2521 (2010), these attorney's fees are payable to plaintiff as the prevailing party, and are subject to

offset through the Treasury Department's Offset Program to satisfy any pre-existing debt plaintiff may owe to the government. If, subsequent to the entry of the Court's EAJA Order, the Commissioner determines that Plaintiff owes no debt to the government that would subject this award of attorney fees to offset, the Commissioner may honor plaintiff's signed assignment of EAJA fees providing for payment of the subject fees to plaintiff's counsel, rather than to plaintiff. If, however, the Commissioner discovers that plaintiff owes the government any debt subject to offset, the Commissioner shall pay any attorney fees remaining after such offset to plaintiff, rather than to counsel.

Signed: June 5, 2018

United States District Judge

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